

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A playing card delivery shoe from which cards may be dealt comprising
 - a) an area for receiving a first set of cards;
 - b) first card mover that moves cards from the first set to a card staging area wherein at least one card is staged in an order by which cards are removed from the first set of cards and moved to the card staging area;
 - c) second card mover that moves cards from the card staging area to a delivery area wherein cards removed from the staging area to the delivery area are moved in the same order by which cards were removed from the first set of cards and moved to the card staging area; and
 - d) card reading sensors that read at least one element of information of card rank, card suit or card value of each card separately after each card has been removed from the area for receiving the first set of cards and before removal from the card delivery area,
wherein the card delivery area includes a slot enabling removal of individual cards.
2. (ORIGINAL) The shoe of claim 1 wherein at least one card but less than an entire deck of cards is present in the staging area.
3. (ORIGINAL) The shoe of claim 2 wherein from 1 to 2 cards are present in the staging area.
4. (ORIGINAL) The shoe of claim 1 wherein after completion of card reading of at least one card in step d), a system of comparison is present to compare the suit and rank of the at least one card to expected card information.
5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The shoe of claim 4 wherein the expected card information is present in a memory storage component in at least one of the shoe and an external computer for each shuffled set of cards inserted in the area for receiving a shuffled set of cards.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The shoe of claim 4 wherein the system of comparison is present to compare the suit and rank of the cards read in step d) with the expected card information for each shuffled set of cards inserted in the area for receiving a shuffled set of cards.
7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The shoe of claim 1 wherein said at least one information is read in the device before the card is being removed from the storage device.
8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The shoe of claim 5 wherein the first set of cards comprises a shuffled set of cards.
9. – 15. (CANCELLED).
16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of providing at least one card to a dealer for manual delivery of the cards by a dealer comprising:
 - placing a set of cards within a card in-feed area;
 - mechanically moving cards in the order in which cards are received in the card in-feed area to a card delivery area where at least some cards become stationary prior to delivery to the card delivery area;
 - reading individual cards for at least one of rank, suit or value after the cards are removed from the card in-feed area and before the cards are delivered to the card delivery area; and
 - delivering read cards to the card delivery area that comprises a slot for removal of individual cards.
17. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 16 wherein the set of cards is placed in an approximately vertical stack in the card feed area.
18. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 16 wherein at least one card from the set of cards is moved to a buffer area between the in-feed area and the card delivery

area, and at least one card remains stationary within the buffer area until the card delivery area is sensed to be empty of cards.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 18 wherein at least one card that remains stationary in the buffer area ~~[[remains]]~~ remains in the buffer area until a signal generated from the shoe indicates that at least one card is to be moved from the buffer area to the card delivery area.

20. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 19 wherein the signal is generated by a sensor in the card delivery area indicating that an additional card is desired in the card delivery area.

21. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 19 wherein the signal is generated by a sensor in the card delivery area indicating that no cards are present in the card delivery area.

22. (CANCELLED)

23. (CANCELLED)

24. (ORIGINAL) The shoe of claim 1 wherein a card position sensor is present that triggers operation of the card reading sensors so that discontinuous signals of cards are provided by the card reading sensors.

25. (CANCELLED)

26. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 16 wherein a card position sensor triggers reading of individual cards so that discontinuous signals of cards are provided.

27. (CANCELLED).

28. (NEW) The shoe of claim 1 wherein the slot is a finger slot in a wall over cards that are to be removed from shoe and the wall is sloped towards the area for receiving a first set of cards.

29. The method of claim 16 wherein the slot is a finger slot in a wall over cards that are to be removed from shoe and the wall is sloped towards the area for receiving a first set of cards.